

## IN MEMORIAM



*William H. Falor, M.D., 1911-1990*

Dr. William Falor, long-time member of the International Society of Lymphology and a participant at the first Congress meeting in Zurich in 1966 died in his hometown of Akron, Ohio at 79 years of age. Trained as both a general and thoracic surgeon, he spent more than fifty years practicing at the Akron City Hospital. Although interested in a variety of medical disorders including solid organ cancers, reflux esophagitis and lipid metabolism, he retained an everlasting love of lymphology and was longstanding director of the Lymphovascular Research Laboratory in Akron.

In lymphology, Dr. Falor was best known for his studies in humans on the dissemination of pulmonary cancer cells into the right and left thoracic ducts. Contrary to the classic anatomic description of Rouviere, Bill Falor found that tumors originating in the right as well as the left lung had a near-equal likelihood of disseminating via the *left* thoracic duct with tumor cells deposited bilaterally in lymph nodes anterior to the scalene muscle. Later he verified these observations by demonstrating coloring of these scalene nodes on both sides of the neck after injection of vital dyes into either the right or left side of the bronchial tree.

Bill Falor was a frequent and enthusiastic attendee at the biennial lymphology congresses. Boundless energy, a patented bow tie, a warm smile, and pixie-like limericks were his ingratiating trademarks that nonetheless belied a resilient, inquisitive, vigorous and sharp imaginative mind. His countless contributions are summarized best by a bronze plaque that hangs in the Surgical Society named after him in the Akron City Hospital. Dedicated in 1980 it reads:

W. H. FALOR, M.D.  
 "A TIRELESS TEACHER,  
 RESEARCHER, INNOVATOR, AND  
 INSPIRATION TO US ALL."

The names of eighty-seven surgeons are listed under this inscription, and to these colleagues, we add the ranks of the ISL.

Charles L. Witte, M.D.

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